

Christopher Van Pelt

(1750 – Oct 15, 1816)

Private, 1st Regiment Monmouth County Militia

By Daisy D. Orr

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According to the *Roster of People of Revolutionary Monmouth County (New Jersey)* by Michael Adelberg, Christopher Van Pelt was a private in the Militia. He was with the 1st Regt. Monmouth County Militia under Col. Asher Holmes.

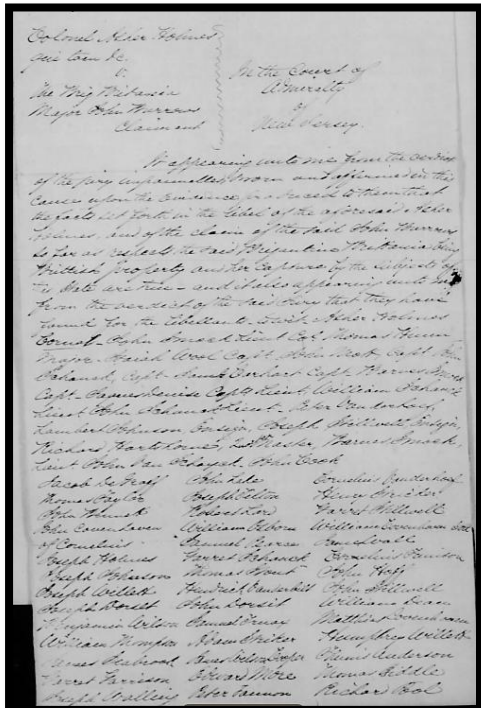
He is listed as present at the capture of British Brig Britannia on Dec. 28, 1779.

Colonel Asher Holmes qui tam &c. V. The Brig Britannia Major John Burrowes Claimant.

In the Court of Admiralty of New Jersey.

It appearing unto me from the verdict of the Jury unpaneled sworn and affirmed in the Cause upon the Evidence for & Proceed to them that the facts set forth in the Libel of the aforesaid Asher Holmes, and of the claim of the said John Burrowes so far as respects the said Brigantine Britannia being British property and her Capture by the subjects of this State are true - and it also appearing unto me from the verdict of the said Jury that they have found for the Libellants to wit:

Asher Holmes Cornel., John Smock Lieut. Col. Thomas Hunn, Major Josiah Wool Capt. John Mott, Capt. Ben Schanck, Capt. Samuel Carhart, Capt. Barnes Smock, Capt. Jacques Denise, Capt. Lieut.



Major John Voorhees Hendrick Hendrickson, Daniel Hendrickson, Jr., Samuel Osborn, Abraham Lane, William Covenhoven, Jr., Cornelius Covenhoven, Jr., Jonathan Forman, Matthias Hulsart?, William Blane, Jacob Hubbard, John Wilson, William Anderson, Jacob Bennett, John David, James Dorset, James Taylor, George Taylor, and Cornelius Covenhoven two thirds of a share, It is therefore adjudged and decreed that the said Brigantine Britannia with tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo and the goods, wares and merchandise found on board her at the time of her capture be condemned as Prize and I do order the Marshall of said Court to sell the same at publick venture and after deducting the costs and charges of this trial & condemnation and the said, out of the money arising from the said sail shall pay the residue thereof unto then the said. Asher Holmes, Col. &c.

By 1781, particularly around the time of the Siege of Yorktown (which ended in October 1781), the Continental Army relied heavily on locals; they hired, or impressed horses to move artillery, supplies, and wagons. Van Pelt contributed to the cause by leasing his team of horses to the Continental Quarter Master in December of 1781.

Van Pelt was also a signer of the petition opposing the return of the Tories to Middletown Point. **Note:** On April 10, 1787, a group of New Jersey citizens submitted a formal petition opposing the return of Loyalists—commonly referred to as Tories—who had fled the state during the American Revolutionary War. These individuals had remained loyal to the British Crown and, in many cases, actively supported British forces against the revolutionaries. With the war over, the issue of whether former Loyalists should be allowed to return, reclaim land, or participate in public life became a deeply divisive political question. Many Loyalists lost their land, and the Monmouth County Archives holds more than one hundred original records documenting such forfeitures of property. Additionally, Loyalist properties had often been sold during the war, and the possible return of former owners threatened to reopen long-settled conflicts.

Further, many petitioners were victims of Tory raids or knew those who had suffered from them. They felt betrayed by their neighbors and maintained that the Loyalists had forfeited both their land and their right to citizenship. The raids on Middletown Point, which resulted in the killing of citizens, as well as the burning of John Burrowes' mill and granaries, remained fresh in their minds.

Christopher S. Van Pelt Family:

Spouse: Unmarried; Christopher died without a will and his brother's son Jacob Van Pelt, Jr., settled the estate, dividing the land he owned in Middletown Point (Matawan). Heirs by intestate were his brothers:



James,
David,
Henrick (Henry);
Jacob (Aug 10, 1753 – 1809) wife Mary (1754 -1826)
(A painting of Jacob is on the left.)

VAN PELT –pg. 85; Nov. 1847. Jacob Van Pelt applied for division of a house and lot in Middletown Point belonging to Christopher Van Pelt, dec'd. The land was held as tenants in common by his heirs who were brothers and children of a deceased brother. Brothers entitled to 1/4 share each: James Van Pelt, David Van Pelt, and Henry Van Pelt. Children of his brother Jacob VanPelt, dec'd., entitled to 1/4 share total: Jacob Van Pelt, the petitioner; David Van Pelt; Charles R. Van Pelt, under 21yrs.; and Martha Jane VanPelt, under 21yrs.